

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry "documentary" days before the election is an appallingly clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. An item produced at "News Central" and then forcibly and widely distributed is anti-democratic and ultimately undermines our nation.

Local stations have an obligation to their communities to present news in the most objective way possible and to distinguish clearly between fact, innuendo, and opinion.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to be one of thorough review and not a rubber stamp.

Thank you.